



NEWSLETTER

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IN RECOGNITION



Mayor George (left) presents plaque to Ms. Mabel Daly for 15 years of service to the local tourism industry at the County pier Visitor Information Center in St. Augustine Beach. Ms. Daly came to St. Augustine in 1955, where she worked for the State Arsenal and then a local accounting firm until she was employed by the Ponce Lodge and Country Club in 1972. She later worked for the Chamber of Commerce and in 1995 for the Visitors And Convention Bureau. She is a widow and has two adult children. When she has spare time, she's noted for her knitting and artistic needlepoint. She also in 1972 won the Lady's Golf Club Championship at the Ponce Lodge and Country Club.



Mayor George (left) presents to City Commissioner Brud Helhoski a certificate from the Florida Institute of Government for completing 18 hours of instruction at the Institute for Elected Municipal Officials that was held in Gainesville. Commissioner Helhoski studied such subjects as the structure and function of Florida cities; taxes and other sources of revenue; accounting and budgeting for cities; and understanding

Florida's laws concerning ethics and open government. Commissioner Helhoski began his four-year term on the Commission on January 1, 2007.

Code Enforcement Officer Terry Magargle receives the certificate from Mayor George to mark his five years of employment with the City. Mr. Magargle is from New York state and served in Vietnam in 1966-67 as a U.S. Marine. He and his wife moved to Florida in 1996. In March 2002, the City hired him as a maintenance worker. In March 2004, he was promoted to the position of Code Enforcement Officer. He has achieved a Level II certificate from the State in code enforcement.





Police Officer Jeffery L. Wallace receives the Sons of the American Revolution 2007 Law Enforcement medal. Shown left to right: Police Chief Richard Hedges, Officer Wallace, and Commander William A. Roberts, USN, ret.

Officer Wallace is a native of Gainesville, Florida. He received his high school diploma from the Withlacoochee Technical Institute in May 1996 and completed Basic Law Enforcement training at the

Institute in July 2002. He was hired by the City in January 2005 and has performed his duties professionally while assigned to the Patrol Division. Chief Hedges noted in his nomination of Officer Wallace for the 2007 Law Enforcement Medal that he “positively influences other employees with his professional attitude, demeanor, and willingness to assist. His initiative and thoroughness have increased the quality of life in our community.”

NEW POLICE OFFICERS

At the Commission’s April 2nd meeting, Ms. Shannon Boehm was sworn in as a police officer. Officer Boehm was born in Oyster Bay, New York and received her high school diploma from Flagler Palm Coast in May 2003. She graduated from the St. Johns River Community College’s Law Enforcement Academy and has completed 72 semester hours with a 3.09 grade point average.





Officer Bruce Wyly's wife, Karen, pins his new badge. At the City Commission's May 7th meeting, Officer Wyly was sworn in as the City's newest police officer. Mr. Wyly was born in Greenville, South Carolina. He retired from the U.S. Coast Guard as a Chief Warrant Officer II after 22 years of service. After completing the Law Enforcement Academy at the St. Johns River Community College, he worked for the Flagler County Sheriff's Office for two years. Officer Wyly and his wife are moving to St. Augustine.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

Editor's Note: The information below was provided by Mr. Chris Benjamin of the St. Johns County Solid Waste Management Division.

The Solid Waste Management Division and the City of St. Augustine Beach will sponsor a Community Collection Day for household hazardous wastes at the city hall parking lot, 2200 State Road A1A, on Saturday, July 14, 2007 from 8 a.m. to noon.

Items that will be accepted include obsolete electronics, such as computers, TVs, telephones, small appliances, etc. Also accepted will be acetone, aerosol cans, antifreeze, auto cleaning products, batteries of all kinds and sizes, brake fluid, ceramic adhesive, cleaning fluids, Coleman fuel, cooking oil, drain cleaners, fertilizers, flea dip, unbroken fluorescent bulbs, gasoline, grout, kerosene, joint compound, lamp oil, lubricants, motor oil, muriatic acid, paint, paint thinners and additives, pesticides, plant food, pool chemicals, propane gas cylinders, refinishers, soaps, shampoos, solvents, transmission fluid, and waxes.

Please remember to handle all items carefully and protect your vehicle from spillage or soiling by using a drop cloth or old newspaper. All household hazardous wastes collected by the County are carefully sorted and stored according to standards set by federal and state authorities and are then transported off site by licensed contractors for proper disposal or recycling.

A maximum of ten tires per household can be dropped off without charge (with or without rims). Sheriff's deputies will also be on hand to accept unwanted weapons, ammunition, flares, and firecrackers.

No trash, yard waste, large appliances, scrap metal, pressure treated lumber, or construction debris will be accepted at this event.

Please note that this "Community Collection Day" on July 14th is for both City and County residents.

In addition, the County has three programs to assist citizens with the proper disposal of household wastes. Such wastes are accepted at the County's Tillman Ridge facility, Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m., and on Saturdays, 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. This facility is located on Allen Nease Road in Elkton.

Household hazardous wastes may also be dropped off at the Crescent Beach fire station at State Road A1A every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon.

In addition, the Solid Waste Management Division holds "Community Collection Days" at various sites around the County.

The supervised collection of household hazardous wastes promotes public health and safety and prevents environmental contamination. Removing household hazardous wastes from residential property also makes homes safer for people and pets. Please call St. Johns County Solid Waste Management Division at 827-6980 for more information about the "Community Collection Day" on July 14th at the City of St. Augustine Beach city hall.

NEW BEACH RULES

Editor's Note: The information below was provided by Ms. Tara Dobson, St. Johns County Habitat Conservation Coordinator.

The City of St. Augustine Beach by interlocal agreement is a participant in the Habitat Conservation Plan that has been developed and approved by St. Johns County. The Plan's main purpose is the protection of endangered sea turtles that have nests on the City's and County's beach. For the public, the Plan has resulted in the following rules. Residents with questions about the rules and the new Plan can call Ms. Dobson at 209-0336.

- Public vehicle access is limited to the hours between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. May 1 through October 31.
- Fireworks are not allowed.
- All beaches will have a 15-foot conservation zone starting at the dune line and leading toward the ocean. No pedestrian activity, animals or vehicles are allowed in those zones.
- St. Augustine Beach now must follow St. Johns County's stricter lighting management plan, which limits artificial lighting that can disorient hatchlings and other species on the beach.
- Commercial fishermen are allowed beach access from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Displays and signs without proper permitting are prohibited on walkovers, signposts and structures.
- Personal property, such as tents, shelters, chairs, catamarans, trailers, towels, shoes and other such items left overnight on the beach are declared a public nuisance and are considered trash. Items cannot be stored in the conservations zones, either.

In addition, St. Augustine Beach regulations do not allow open fires, alcoholic beverages, or horseback riding on the beach. Dogs are allowed but must be on a leash no longer than 8 feet. Persons walking their dogs are required by ordinance to clean up after them and to deposit the waste in one of the trash containers that line the beach. On the section of beach where driving is allowed (south of A Street), the speed limit is 10 mph and persons must park their vehicles in the area designated by signs.

CHANGES TO CITY'S GARBAGE/TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE BECAUSE OF HOLIDAYS

During the next three months, there are two holidays that will change the City's garbage/trash collection schedule. They are: the Independence Day holiday on Wednesday, July 4th; and the Labor Day holiday on Monday, September 3rd. These holidays will cause the following changes to the City's garbage/trash collection schedule:

Monday, July 2:	Normal pickup of household wastes.
Tuesday, July 3:	Normal pickup of household wastes.
Wednesday, July 4:	INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY. CITY OFFICES CLOSED. NO PICKUP OF YARD TRASH AND OTHER SPECIAL WASTES. RESIDENTS SCHEDULED FOR RECYCLING PICKUP ON WEDNESDAY WILL HAVE PICKUP ON THURSDAY.
Thursday, July 5:	Normal pickup of household wastes. Residents scheduled for recycling pickup on Thursday will have pickup on Friday.
Friday, July 6:	Normal pickup of household wastes.
Monday, September 3:	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY. CITY OFFICES CLOSED. NO PICKUP OF HOUSEHOLD WASTES.
Tuesday, September 4:	Residents scheduled for pickup on Monday will have pickup on TUESDAY.
Wednesday, September 5: have	Residents scheduled for pickup on Tuesday will pickup on WEDNESDAY. THERE WILL BE NO PICKUP OF YARD TRASH AND OTHER SPECIAL WASTES.
Thursday, September 6:	Normal pickup of household wastes.
Friday, September 7:	Normal pickup of household wastes.

The schedule for the pickup of recyclables will be normal for the week of the Labor Day holiday.

REQUESTS

1. Nominations for 2007 Beautification Awards. Each year, the City's Beautification Advisory Committee asks residents to submit nominations of properties, residential or commercial, that the residents believe are deserving of an award. The categories are: residential, large business, small business, streetscape (such as the entrance to a subdivision) and xeriscape (landscaping that does not require large amounts of water).

Properties nominated for an award will be evaluated according to the following criteria: aesthetic and artistic appeal; originality, innovation and creativity; long-term strategy, maintenance and serviceability of material; general improvement of the area or neighborhood; compatibility with area or neighborhood; screening of unsightly areas; appropriate use of land and effective planning. Properties nominated must meet applicable building and/or landscaping codes.

Nomination forms are available at the city hall, 2200 A1A South, or residents can call the City Manager's office (471-2122), and a form can be faxed or e-mailed to them.

The deadline for nominations to be received by the City is July 16, 2007. The awards will be presented by the City Commission at its September meeting.

2. Volunteer Assistance. For residents who may be retired and/or have time to provide volunteer help to the City for special projects, the City is looking for assistance in the following areas: landscape design, horticulture, graphic design, and TV production. Persons interested in helping may call the Public Works Director, Mr. Marc Chattin, at 471-1119, or e-mail him at sabpwd@bellsouth.net.

PROJECTS

Below is an update of major projects the City is currently doing.

1. Splash Fountain at Pier Park. A circular play fountain for children will be constructed east of the Visitor Information Center at the County pier park. The City has obtained a grant of \$112,500 from the State and will provide a match of \$12,500 plus an additional \$50,000 for the project from recreation impact fees. An additional \$50,000 will be raised by the South Beaches Area Council of the Chamber of Commerce from special events and the sale of bricks. A 4x4-inch brick can be purchased for \$100, while \$250 will buy an 8x8-inch brick. Each size brick can have three rows of characters (in honor of, in memory of, etc.). Persons interested in purchasing a brick or bricks may do so by getting a form from the City Manager's office, 2200 A1A South. At its February 5, 2007 meeting, the City Commission approved a company, Mudrak Engineering and Construction, building the fountain. Applications for the required permits (Health Department and Florida Department of Environmental Protection) have been made. The goal is to have the fountain completed by Labor Day (September 3rd) of this year.
2. Sewer System Improvements. This is a project of the St. Johns County Utility Department to put sewer mains in the City's older subdivisions where household septic systems are now the means for sewage collection and treatment. The County has \$13 million for the project from a grant and the State's revolving loan fund. A consulting engineering firm is now doing the routing of where the sewer mains and pumping stations will be put. At its May 7th meeting, the City Commission approved the following areas of public property as sites for pumping stations: the plaza on the west side of the Boulevard at 1st Street; the plaza on the northwest corner of D Street and 3rd Avenue; and the south end of Oceanside Drive in the Linda Mar subdivision. Some of the subdivisions where the sewer mains may be put include Woodland, Atlantic Beach, Minorca, Chautauqua Beach, Coquina Gables, Sevilla Gardens, and Linda Mar. No date has been set for the actual construction to start.
3. Improvements to Plazas. Plazas are min-parks adjacent to A1A Beach Boulevard between 14th and D Streets and along 2nd Avenue between 11th and D Streets. Some places have been landscaped; others are used as small parking lots. At its June 4th meeting, the Commission reviewed a plan from the Public Works Director to put public restrooms and parking on the plaza on the east side of the Boulevard in front of the Pit Surf Shop. The Director is to make some revisions and bring the plan back for review at the Commission's July 2nd Meeting. The Commission also will review at its July meeting the Director's preliminary plan to use for parking the four plazas along 2nd Avenue between A and 1st Streets.
4. Traffic Signal for A Street/State Road A1A. The one complaint the City consistently receives is how unsafe this intersection is because of the traffic volume and the lack of a traffic signal. The installation of the signal is the responsibility of the Sea Grove subdivision developer, JNM Beachside Development, Ltd. The Florida Department of Transportation must issue a permit for the erection of the signal. The DOT District Secretary informed the City in mid-May that the DOT finds it acceptable "for the traffic signal to be operational the day the new U.S. Postal Service [office] is opened or December [2007], whichever occurs first" (from a letter from Mr. Charles Baldwin to the City's Building Official). Mr. Baldwin said that the DOT has received revised plans for the signal from JNM Beachside Development,

and if these plans are acceptable, the DOT will issue a bond or a letter of credit, as well as the permit for the signal.

5. Beach Access Walkways. St. Johns County, with a State grant, built two walkways in the City in 2007: One at 10th Street; the other at 1st Street. The grant will provide for four more walkways. Two are to be built in 2008, and the final two in 2009. The locations of these four walkways will be determined by the City Commission.

The City expects to receive a State grant that will pay 50% of the cost to build a walkway from A1A Beach Boulevard to the beach along the south side of the Maratea subdivision, which is north of the Sea Colony subdivision. The City will know in June or July if it has been awarded the grant.

HURRICANE SEASON REMINDERS

With the start of the 2007 hurricane season on June 1st, residents are reminded of the following: First, they should have a survival kit with 3-7 days' supply of food, water, and other necessities for themselves and their families. Second, they should leave the City for a refuge away from the coast should a hurricane be forecast to come at or near St. Johns County. Third, residents can obtain a no-fee pass that will allow them back on Anastasia Island after an evacuation order has been lifted. The pass is available at the City's Police Department, 2300 A1A South. Fourth, residents who are frail, elderly or have special needs should register with the County's Emergency Management Department. They can obtain a form by calling 8242-5550, or from the Department's website: jcemergencymanagement.org. or by following a link on the City's website: staugbch.com. Fifth, for those residents who lack transportation when an evacuation is ordered, the County will provide transportation to a shelter. Residents can call 824-5550 to be put on a list, or if they have a neighbor who doesn't have transportation, they can ask the neighbor to call the County.

The County's Department of Emergency Management has prepared a "Hurricane Information Resource" guide. Copies are available at the City Manager's office, 2200 A1A South.

WHERE WE'VE BEEN...

During the past three months, the City Commission has made the following decisions, among many:

1. Approved the following ordinances:
 - to increase the \$25,000 homestead exemption for low income senior citizens to \$50,000
 - to lower the speed limit in the Woodland Estates subdivision from 25 mph to 15 mph
 - to adopt the City's logo as its official seal.
 - to vacate an alley on the west side of A1A Beach Boulevard between 2nd and 3rd Streets.
 - to vacate an alley west of 2nd Avenue between 7th and 8th Streets.
 - to change the term "occupational licenses" to "local business tax receipts" in accordance with a new State law.
 - to prohibit solicitation at private residences where a "No Solicitation" sign has been posted.
 - to reduce the speed limit in the Sea Grove subdivision from 25 mph to 15 mph.
 - to amend the Capital Improvements Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan to incorporate the State-mandated proportionate fair share mitigation for traffic concurrency.

2. Approved the following resolutions:
 - to declare certain police vehicles as surplus and approve their donation to the Rodeheaver Boys' Ranch.
 - to support a law being considered by the Florida Legislature to ensure the preservation of beach access for Florida residents and tourists.
 - to authorize the execution of a landscape/streetscape maintenance agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for new landscaping that will be planted in the medians of State Road A1A between Owens Avenue and the intersection with State Road 312.
 - to authorize the renewal of the agreement the City has with the Florida Department of Transportation for the City to mow the State Road A1A right-of-way between Owens Avenue and State Road 312. The DOT pays the City \$35,980 a year for this work.
 - to enter into an Urban and Community Grant Memorandum of Agreement with the State Division of Forestry for an urban forestry grant to do an inventory of the trees on public property in the City.
 - to amend the Fiscal Year 2007 budget for various reasons.
 - to amend the City's Personnel Manual to change when employee work performance evaluations are done from once a year in June to each employee's anniversary date of being hired by the City.

3. Made the following miscellaneous decisions:
 - approved the following proclamations: to proclaim April 2007 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month; to adopt the temporary title of "Turtle Town USA" for the City

to celebrate the return of nesting sea turtles; to proclaim April 27, 2007 as Arbor Day in the City; to proclaim May 2007 as Older Americans Month.

- approved a special event permit for the Rubber Duck Race at the County pier and pavilion on Sunday, April 25th, to raise money for Relay for Life teams.
 - approved the following conditional use permits to allow outside serving of food and beverages at the Sea Oats Caffe in the Anastasia Shopping Plaza; to allow the serving of food and beverages on the screen porch of the Villa Santa Monica Restaurant, 105 D Street.
 - approved a five-year contract with Waste Services for the company to pick up recyclables in the City.
 - approved the following appointments: to the Tree Board/Beautification Advisory Committee, Ms. Hester Longstreet as alternate; to the Code Enforcement Board: Mr. Alan Anthony as regular member and Mr. Michael Flynn as alternate.
 - heard a presentation by representatives from the First Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization about the area's Transportation Improvement Program.
 - approved a leave of absence of 60 days for a Public Works Maintenance Worker.
 - approved the clearing and opening of the 2nd Street right-of-way west of 2nd Avenue.
 - continued the review and discussion of improving the City's emergency operations plan.
 - reviewed the 2006 annual report on development in the City.
 - took no action on a proposal to convert the southwest plaza at the corner of D Street and A1A Beach boulevard to a parking lot.
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WHERE WE'RE GOING.....

During the next three months, the City Commission will consider the following, among many other topics:

1. Fiscal Year 2008 Budget. The budget for 2008 will very likely be influenced by the decisions that the Florida Legislature will make during a special session from June 12th to June 22nd. As this Newsletter will be printed during that time, the City won't be able in the Newsletter to provide information about the effect of the Legislature's decisions on the City's next budget. Discussions to date by various legislators indicate that all Florida cities and counties will have to reduce their FY 08 budgets by a certain percentage, which could range from 10% to 50%. The process the City will use to meet whatever budget mandates the Legislature approves is this: to work from the essential to the non-essential. The essential include debt payments, money needed for insurance to protect City property and for liability and workers' compensation insurance; money for the wages and fringe benefits of the employees who are needed to carry out the City's essential services: law enforcement,; solid waste collection; building permits and inspections; code enforcement; government functions related to internal operations, such as accounting and bookkeeping, legal advertising for City Commission and board meetings; money for fuel and repair of the vehicles that are needed to provide the services. Non-essential expenses include travel, memberships, subscriptions, beautification projects, education (unless mandated to maintain such certifications as building inspections and law enforcement). The problem for the City is that there aren't many non-essential expenses. More significant budget cuts may have to be made by not hiring new employees to fill vacancies and not purchasing a new sanitation truck and new police cars. The City staff will have to complete the budget in early July and get it to the City Commission by July 16th, or two weeks before the Commission is due to hold its first public hearing on the budget on Monday, July 30th. However, these dates are tentative at this time, because the Legislature's decisions in the special session may mean that the Property Appraiser will be unable to provide the City with information on the assessed value of taxable property in the City until mid-July. Residents with questions about the FY 08 budget may call the City Manager at 471-2122 or e-mail him at sabadmin@cityofsab.org.
2. Ordinance to Create an Overlay District. For several months, the Planning Board has been reviewing the Building Official's proposal that the City establish an overlay district. As stated in the proposed ordinance to create the overlay district, the district's purpose "will provide for the enhancement or replacement of existing non-conforming structures located within the medium density land use district located east of A1A Beach Boulevard between 16th Street and F Street. Owners/buyers will be allowed to remodel or replace existing unit/units on a lot/lots based on existing setbacks. Structures deemed currently as non-conforming in accordance with the current Land Development Regulations will lose the non-conforming designation by the overlay." At its May 15th meeting, the Planning Board recommended to the Commission that the ordinance be passed with an amendment concerning the height and design of a fence. At its June 4th meeting, the City Commission passed the ordinance on first reading. It will have a public hearing at the Commission's July 2nd meeting.
3. Allowing Golf Carts to be Driven on City-Owned Streets. A handicapped couple who live in Treasure Beach 2-3 miles south of the City's southern limit has requested to be allowed to drive a golf cart on streets in the City. Many of the major streets in the City, such as Pope Road, A1A Beach Boulevard, A Street, and most of 16th and 11th Streets, are owned by the County, while SR-A1A is owned by the State. At its June 4th meeting, the City Commission discussed at length a proposed ordinance which would allow, with some restrictions, the driving of golf carts

on City streets and sidewalks. The discussion was continued to the Commission's July 2nd meeting.

4. Establishing a Mixed Use Zoning District. This is a district where both residential and commercial uses are allowed. The consultant hired by the City Commission in 2005 to develop a vision plan for A1A Beach Boulevard recommended such a zoning district. In response, the Commission is considering two ordinances. One amends the City's Comprehensive Plan to establish a mixed use district in the commercial strip along the Boulevard's east side and between the Boulevard and 2nd Avenue on the west side. The mixed use zoning district would go from 16th to F Street. The second ordinance amends the City's Land Development Code and provides such regulations as architectural standards, parking requirements, exterior colors, and setback and height restrictions. The Planning Board has conducted a number of reviews of these two ordinances and will do one on June 19th. The Board may have further recommendations for the City Commission to consider at its July 2nd meeting.

5. Regulating Short-Term Rentals in Medium Density Land Use Districts. These districts are located on the east and west sides of A1A Beach Boulevard between 16th and F Streets. Some homes in the districts are now being rented out for short terms, a weekend or a week, like a hotel or motel room. This kind of rental is considered a commercial activity, and the City's Comprehensive Plan doesn't allow commercial or business activities in areas of the City that are designated as residential. For several months, both the Commission and the Planning Board have been discussing two questions related to short-term rentals in the medium density residential districts: whether to phase them out over a period of years or allow them to exist subject to specific regulations. The Planning Board at its June 19th meeting may make a recommendation for the City Commission to consider at its July 2nd meeting.

6. Comprehensive Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report. The City's current Comprehensive Plan was developed in 1988-89 and adopted in 1990. State law requires that every seven years the City do an evaluation and appraisal report of the Plan's goals, policies, and objectives and to make changes to the Plan to bring it into conformity with changes in the State's growth management law, administrative regulations, and the State's and Regional Council's plans. At its June 4th meeting, the City Commission asked the Planning Board to review the requirements for doing the report. The deadline for submission of the report to the Florida Department of Community Affairs is August 2, 2008 with November 1, 2008 as the deadline for the adoption of the report.

7. Ordinances to Vacate 6th Street and Two Alleys West of A1A Beach Boulevard. A local hotelier, Mr. Fred Ashdji, may propose to build three hotels on vacant land on the west side of the Boulevard between 4th and 7th Streets. To make this development feasible, he will ask the City to vacate the unopened section of 6th Street between the Boulevard and 2nd Avenue, as well as two 15-foot wide alleys. The Planning Board will review this request at its June meeting and will provide a recommendation to the City Commission for a public hearing that will be held at the Commission's July 2nd meeting. If the Commission approves the vacation requests, an ordinance or ordinances will be prepared for first reading at the Commission's August 6th meeting.

8. Interlocal Agreement with County for Beach Services. Since 1985, the County by interlocal agreement with the City has managed the City's beach and provided such services as lifeguards, solid waste removal, portable toilets, and collectors for the toll booths. The County from beach tolls has reimbursed the City the costs to have its police officers patrol the beach

during the spring and summer season. In August 2006, the City Commission approved having a citizens' committee review the interlocal agreement and draft new terms for it. This was done, and a draft of the revised agreement as approved by the City Commission was forwarded to the County in February 2007. County legal and administrative personnel have reviewed the agreement. The County's Beach Operations Chief, Mr. Dave Williams, will schedule a meeting with City representatives to discuss changes to the agreement.

9. Ordinance to Extend Date to Commence Development of the Maratea Subdivision. This new subdivision is located on the east side of A1A Beach Boulevard between the Bermuda Run and Sea Colony subdivisions. In 2005, the City Commission approved a planned unit development of 72 residential units. A condition of the ordinance authorizing the development was that work had to begin on it within two years of the date of the ordinance. Though site investigation, a habitat plan, and other work has been done, actual construction hasn't been started. At its June 4th meeting, the City Commission approved the preparation of an ordinance to extend the date construction must start for one year. The ordinance will have a first reading at the Commission's July 2nd meeting.

10. New Branch Post Office. The U.S. Postal Service is negotiating with the developer of the Sea Grove subdivision, JNM Beachside Development, Ltd., to lease 2,000 square feet for a branch post office in the Sea Grove Town Center. If negotiations are successful, the branch post office will be opened by Thanksgiving.

11. New Branch Library. The St. Johns County Library System is building an 8,000 square-foot branch library in the Sea Grove Town Center. It is due to be completed in July, with a grand opening tentatively scheduled for August of this year.

12. Updating the City's Emergency Preparedness Plan. Though the City has had an emergency plan for years that has been used when hurricanes and tropical storms have threatened the City, the plan needs improving. At its June 4th meeting, a new City resident, U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Darryl Melton, was introduced. He has a background in emergency preparedness and has generously offered to review the City's plan and suggest improvements to it. The Commission will continue its review of the plan at its July meeting.
